

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A negative electrode active material comprising:  
a composition A-B-C containing a first element A, a second element B, and a third element C,  
wherein the first element A is at least one selected from copper and iron; the second element B is at least one selected from silicon and tin; and the third element C is at least one selected from the group consisting of indium, antimony, bismuth, and lead.
2. A negative electrode active material according to Claim 1, wherein the first element A is copper, the second element B is silicon, and the third element C is at least one selected from indium and antimony.
3. A negative electrode active material according to Claim 1, wherein the composition A-B-C contains 5 to 50% by weight of the second element B and contains 1 to 50% by weight of the third element C.
4. A negative electrode active material according to Claim 1, wherein the composition A-B-C has low crystallinity.
5. A negative electrode active material according to

Claim 1, wherein the composition A-B-C is amorphous.

6. A nonaqueous electrolyte battery comprising:  
a positive electrode containing a positive electrode active material;  
a negative electrode containing a negative electrode active material; and  
a nonaqueous electrolyte,  
wherein the negative electrode active material contains a composition A-B-C containing a first element A, a second element B, and a third element C, in which the first element A is at least one selected from copper and iron, the second element B is at least one selected from silicon and tin, and the third element C is at least one selected from the group consisting of indium, antimony, bismuth, and lead.

7. A nonaqueous electrolyte battery according to Claim 6, wherein the first element A is copper, the second element B is silicon, and the third element C is at least one selected from indium and antimony.

8. A nonaqueous electrolyte battery according to Claim 6, wherein the composition A-B-C contains 5 to 50% by weight of the second element B and contains 1 to 50% by weight of the third element C.

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9. A nonaqueous electrolyte battery according to Claim 6, wherein the composition A-B-C has low crystallinity.

10. A nonaqueous electrolyte battery according to Claim 6, wherein the composition A-B-C is amorphous.

11. A nonaqueous electrolyte battery according to Claim 6, wherein the negative electrode further contains a carbonaceous material which is capable of being doped and being undoped with lithium.

12. A nonaqueous electrolyte battery according to Claim 11, wherein the carbonaceous material is one selected from the group consisting of non-graphitizable carbon, graphitizable carbon, and graphite.

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